

Remarks

Claims 16, 19 – 29 and 46 – 57 remain pending.

Claim 16 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 18 and is neither shown nor suggested by the prior art. The examiner's attention is called to the accompanying disclosure statement wherein an English language translation of EP published application EP0709539 is submitted for consideration.

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0090 for additional fees required.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Stephen J. Schultz/

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